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REMARKS

Prior to the present response, claims 1, 3-12, 15-55, 57-62 and 62-67 were pending. By way of the above amendments, claims 1, 4, 9, 15, 33, 34, 37, 38, 45, 46, 48, 55, 64 and 65 have been amended, claims 32, 59, 61 and 62 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 68-75 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-12, 15-31, 33-55, 57, 58, 60 and 64-75 currently are pending. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The amendments to independent claims 1 and 45 broaden the claims in some respects and recite the concept of receiving at least one bridge code transmitted from a transmitter associated with a tangible object. Support for these amendments is found in original claims 32 and 33 and, for instance, in the specification starting at page 13.

Turning now to the rejections, page 2 of the Office Action includes a rejection of claim 55 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the Office Action asserts that proper antecedent basis has not been provided for the feature, "said vehicle on-board computer." In response, claim 55 has been amended. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to claim 55 obviates the rejection under Section 112.

On pages 3-6, the Office rejected claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 12, 15-22, 25, 32-38, 41, 45-49, 52, 57-60 and 64-67 as allegedly being anticipated by Browning (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,629). Insofar as the Office may consider this rejection to apply to the claims as presently amended, Applicant respectfully traverses.

Applicant initially notes that the cancellation of claims 32 and 59 without prejudice or disclaimer has rendered moot the rejection of these claims.

Turning now to the pending claims, it is respectfully submitted that the Browning patent does not describe the claimed feature of "a portable client device, including a bridge control program and an input device, said portable client device adapted to receive and store at least one bridge code associated with a tangible media object, which was transmitted from a transmitter associated with the object," and the step of "receiving in a portable client device at least one bridge code associated with a tangible media object, which was transmitted by a transmitter associated with the tangible media object, and storing each received bridge code therein," as respectively set forth in the context of amended independent claims 1 and 45.

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The Browning patent describes a handheld device that scans single line textual information in the form of internet URL's, internet protocol addresses, internet e-mail addresses, FTP sites, USENET news group addresses and DNS addresses as they occur in print advertising and printed media (see, the abstract). Scanned addresses are stored in the handheld device until they are uploaded to a computer ("communication device") by way of wired or wireless transmission medium (see, column 3, 57-66). After uploading the addresses to the computer, they are sorted and displayed for viewing on the computer's monitor (column 4, lines 4-7). The computer, either in an automatic or manual mode, initiates a connection to a remote site, such as the world-wide web page on the Internet whose address was received by the scanner. After the connection is established, the relevant information on the remote site is downloaded and stored in the computer for viewing using a browser or other program (column 4, lines 41-51 and 56-64). In column 5, lines 54-67, Browning describes using a barcode reader to scan barcodes. In this case, the computer stores a database that is associated with software executable on the computer. This database contains an URL, or similar such address data, for each product code, such as the home page for the product's manufacturer. Upon the transmission of a scanned code from the scanner, the software program in the computer retrieves an associated address from the database, and then establishes the connection to the appropriate remote site. However, the Browning patent is silent with respect to tangible media including a transmitter device configured to transmit the bridge codes from the tangible media to the client computer system. Accordingly, Browning cannot anticipate the combination of features recited in amended claims 1 and 45.

The Action also includes a rejection of claims 6, 23, 24, 28-31, 61 and 62 as allegedly being obvious over the Browning patent. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant initially notes that the rejection of claims 61 and 62 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims without prejudice or disclaimer.

With respect to claims 6, 23, 24 and 28-31, which depend from claim 1, Applicant submits these claims are patentable at least for the above reasons. Furthermore, because there is no mention in Browning of a transmitter associated with a tangible media object, Browning cannot teach or suggest a "a portable client device ... adapted to receive and store at least one bridge code associated with a tangible media object, which was transmitted from a transmitter associated with the object," and a step of "receiving in a portable client device at least one

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bridge code associated with a tangible media object, which was transmitted by a transmitter associated with the tangible media object ...," as recited in combination with the other features of claims 1 and 45.

On pages 7-9, the Office Action includes rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103, of claims 10, 11, 50-51 as allegedly being obvious over Browning in view of Philyaw (U.S. Patent No. 6,708,208), and of claims 26, 27, 42-44 and 53-55 as allegedly being obvious over Browning in view of Caci (U.S. Patent No. 6,154,658). It is respectfully submitted, however, that neither the Philyaw patent nor the Caci patent remedy the shortcomings pointed out above with respect to amended independent claims 1 and 45. Hence claims 10, 11, 50-51 and 53-55, which depend from one of claims 1 and 45, are considered patentable over the proposed combinations of the Browning patent and the Philyaw and Caci patents at least for the above reasons, and further for the additional features recited.

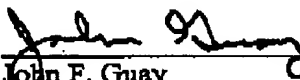
Additionally, the Action asserts that the Caci patent teaches the claimed features of a wireless communication device being a vehicle on-board computer, which is acknowledged to be missing from the Browning patent description. However, the bar code reader in Caci is provided for tracking and verifying loads (see, column 18, lines 16-20), which is an entirely different objective from use of a bar code reader in Browning. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that there would have been no suggestion to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the disparate teachings of Browning and Caci in such a way as suggested in the Action.

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The present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and prompt notification of the same is earnestly sought. Should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved that can be addressed by way of a telephonic conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,


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